

The main theme of the Pontiff's visit is "Towards the Light of Knowledge." This theme reflects the Pontiff's deep faith that only with greater education and dialogue can the world's conflicts be properly addressed.

The Catholicos's visit will be marked by a number of major events, including a speech he will deliver on October 14th at the Los Angeles World Affairs Council concerning the challenges to inter-religious dialogue in the Middle East. He will also participate by giving the main address at a symposium to be held at the University of Southern California focusing on "Christian Responses to Violence."

Of special significance to the 29th Congressional District, the Catholicos will be consecrating the Saint Sarkis Armenian Apostolic Church in Pasadena and blessing a new headquarters for the Western Prelacy.

I ask all Members to join with me and the Armenian American community throughout the State of California in welcoming the upcoming Pontifical visit of His Holiness Aram I, Catholicos of the Great House of Cilicia.

CONGRATULATING THE NESTLÉ VERY BEST IN YOUTH AWARD WINNER

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the superior academic performance of Micaela Watkins, an award winner in the Nestlé Very Best in Youth program. Twenty four recipients, from 13 different States, were selected from over 600 applicants.

This award recognizes exceptional young people, ages 10–18, who have demonstrated a commitment to reading and academic excellence as well as made tangible contributions to the quality of life for their communities. Winners received \$1,000 from Nestlé USA to donate to a nonprofit organization of their choice and an all-expense paid, 5-day trip to Los Angeles for an awards ceremony held this past July.

Micaela is a 17-year-old honor student from Fort Worth, TX. She is involved in numerous activities at school, and around the community. Her future plans include receiving an undergraduate degree in political science and a law degree. Further down the road, she would like to establish a law firm that provides legal counsel to those who normally couldn't afford it.

I extend my sincere congratulations to Micaela Watkins for receiving this award. This student's contribution and services should serve as inspiration to those who wish to make a positive difference in the lives of others.

RECOGNIZING PATSY D'AMBROSIO

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2005

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge Mr. Patsy D'Ambrosio of Spring Hill, FL, a Purple Heart recipient from World War II.

Born in Italy, Mr. D'Ambrosio moved to New York when he was 3 years old. Inducted into the Army on December 26, 1942, Mr. D'Ambrosio served during World War II as part of Company A of the 747th Tank Battalion in the European Theater. Following completion of his service, he received an honorable discharge from the Army on May 26, 1945.

As part of the successful D-Day attack on Omaha Beach, Mr. D'Ambrosio was injured storming the French hedgerows, which were heavily defended by German tanks. While attacking the German fortifications, Mr. D'Ambrosio's tank was struck by two 88 mm shells. Severely wounded and suffering from shrapnel wounds and burns over much of his body, Mr. D'Ambrosio was pulled to safety by his assistant tank driver.

Following his retirement as an optician, Mr. D'Ambrosio and his family moved to Florida to retire and to help his son start a family automotive business. Today, Amber Automotive has been operating in Brooksville for 25 years.

Mr. Speaker, true American heroes like Patsy D'Ambrosio should be honored for their service to our Nation and for their commitment and sacrifices in battle. I am honored to present Mr. D'Ambrosio with his long-overdue Purple Heart. He is truly one of America's greatest generation.

THE JUSTICE FOR PEACE OFFICERS ACT OF 2005

HON. DAVID DREIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2005

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, on April 29, 2002, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Deputy David March was brutally slain execution-style during a routine traffic stop. Suspect Armando Garcia fled to Mexico within hours of Deputy March's death and has eluded prosecution by U.S. authorities.

Tragically, Mexico's refusal to extradite individuals who may face the death penalty or life imprisonment has complicated efforts to bring Armando Garcia back to the U.S. to face prosecution for his crimes. Over the last 3 years, I have fought to see Armando Garcia and other fugitives accused in killings brought back to the U.S. I have met with officials from the Department of Justice and the State Department. I have written repeatedly, joined by other members of Congress, to President Bush and to Secretaries of State Colin Powell and Condoleezza Rice, calling for aggressive action to change Mexico's extradition policy. I have even met with high officials of the Mexican government in an effort to impress upon our neighbor the intolerable nature of its extradition policy. However, 3 years later, Armando Garcia and thousands of other fugitives still roam free.

I will continue to work with the administration to bring Deputy March's murderer to justice. I will also continue our fight to persuade Mexico to change its policy. But until that is achieved, I believe that the Congress has a duty to act as well.

It was at the urging of Los Angeles County Sheriff Lee Baca that my friend from Pasadena, Mr. SCHIFF, and I introduced H.R. 2363, the Peace Officer Justice Act, to make it a Federal crime to kill a peace officer and flee

the country to avoid prosecution. This bill ensures that criminals who murder law enforcement officials and escape to another country will have the full weight of the Federal Government on their trail.

Currently under Federal law, it is a crime to kill a Federal peace officer or state/local officers if they are engaged in a Federal investigation. We believe there is no reason that a heinous crime, such as the one in Deputy March's case, should not also be a Federal crime with the same penalties as the murder of a Federal officer.

The punishment for fleeing prosecution under existing law is no more than 5 years or merely a fine. I believe that a fine or 5 years imprisonment for the cold-blooded murder of a law enforcement officer is tantamount to no justice at all. The Peace Officer Justice Act makes such an act punishable by the Federal murder statute, which includes the death penalty or life in prison. This legislation is supported by the Fraternal Order of Police and the National Sheriffs Association.

However, Los Angeles County District Attorney Steve Cooley has decided to strongly oppose the bill citing several concerns with its provisions. Specifically, Mr. Cooley believes that making such a crime a violation of Federal law would provide "exclusive jurisdiction" for the Federal Government to pursue a cop-killer who flees the country. In response, I made clear that this bill provides concurrent jurisdiction for the Federal Government to prosecute; not the authority to supersede jurisdiction of states or localities. Therefore, either the Federal Government or the State/local prosecutor could pursue the case. In fact, if the State has already pursued its own prosecution of such a crime, that would not prohibit the Federal Government from pursuing a subsequent prosecution under this bill. For example, in *United States v. Lanza*, 260 U.S. 377, 382 (1922), the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the conviction in Federal court of a person previously convicted in State court for performing the same act. The Court stated "We have here two sovereigns deriving power from different sources, capable of dealing with the same subject-matter within the same territory. Each government in determining what shall be an offense against its peace and dignity is exercising its own sovereignty, not that of the other." This "dual sovereignty doctrine" has also been used to uphold successive prosecutions by two States for the same conduct. See e.g. *Heath v. Alabama*, 474 U.S. 82 (1985) (permitting a defendant who crossed a State line in the course of a kidnapping to be prosecuted for murder in both States). However, Mr. Cooley strongly disagrees with U.S. Supreme Court precedent.

Mr. Cooley also cites California Penal Code 793, which prohibits the prosecution of any crime that has already been tried in the U.S. or other State. He argues that California would not be able to prosecute cop-killers who flee the country due to the State law and the Federal Government's "exclusive jurisdiction" of such cases.

Mr. Cooley also argues that if Federal prosecutors, using their "exclusive jurisdiction" of such crimes, decide to forego the death penalty or life imprisonment to extradite a suspect back from Mexico to the U.S., that any term of years set by the Federal Government would be less than any term that California prosecutors would seek for punishment. Specifically,